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This inclusion in the special bibliography series is intended to introduce material holdings of the Morris Swett Library which cover the development and use of proximity fuzes. Holdings are considered under the categories of books, periodical articles, and vertical file materials. The latter class of materials range from the most transient to the archival in nature.

The proximity fuze was secretly developed through the joint efforts of the U.S. Army, Navy, and the National Defense Research Committee early in the world war period. The fuze was designed to operate when it came under the influence of a target by detonating a charge. Control could be effected by radar, photoelectric cells, or other devices. One variety of the proximity fuze is the variable-time (VT) fuze. This fuze was first used in combat on 5 January 1943 when the U.S. Navy's cruiser Helena shot down a Japanese airplane. The fuze proved very useful in the defense of England from V-1 attack, and in the Ardennes Forest offensive of Von Rundstedt. The development of the proximity fuze enabled artillery, ships, and aircraft to fire with a greatly improved hit probability as the problem of target proximation was thereby resolved.

This bibliography is not intended to cover the subject in an exhaustive sense. Inclusion of an item, or accidental omission, does not imply USAFAS indorsement or sanction of the compiler's view, nor does it guarantee accuracy of content. Comment and criticism concerning this list is solicited. Too, the listing can serve as a checklist for materials held by library collections. Arrangement of the bibliography is by the format of material.

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